

until such time as it is possible for a meeting to be arranged whereby the city officers and the officers of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company may have full opportunity to discuss this matter? I again earnestly urge you not to leave your positions.

"FRANK HEDLEY.

"Reasons Given for Strike.

The Interborough company gave out a statement last night explaining the causes of the strike. It follows:

"No question of unionism is involved. The men have been recognized in every way and this crisis follows long continuing negotiations with representatives of the employees. The cause is a clear-cut demand on the part of the employees for an increase of 50 per cent. in their wages. A few days ago an additional demand was made for a 100 per cent. increase. Authorized by the company, but now the employees demand 40 per cent. more than that.

"The proposed 10 per cent. would require \$2,000,000 cash a year and would exhaust the cash resources of the company between now and January 1.


The borrowing capacity was exhausted last year. To get 40 per cent. additional would require about \$5,000,000 a year more. We have offered to arbitrate this difference between 10 per cent. and 50 per cent. increase with our men, but if an agreement could be worked out, we had 10 per cent. already authorized the financial resources of the company would not make possible the payment of the wages awarded.

"The company is paying no dividends on its stock. Even at the existing wage scale the company is not earning the interest on its 5 per cent. bonds, and for the year ending June 30, 1915, failed to earn that interest by \$4,000,000."

Connolly Rebuffs Employees.

Borough President Connolly of Queens replied sharply yesterday to the demand

of the technical men employed by the borough for a \$500 salary increase. He said the minimum now paid is \$900 for axemen and the maximum \$7,200. If the demand were granted it would cost the borough \$174,000 additional. President Connolly said the technical men were few in comparison to the other city employees and there is no reason why they should receive preference over any other union men employed.




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